

Established February, 1845.

PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH.

Shipping.

Steamers.

STEAM TO YOKOHAMA, VIA NAGASAKI AND KOBE.

(Passing through the INLAND SEA.)

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s
Steamship
Alonzo

 will leave for the above places on **WEDNESDAY, 3rd Instant**, at Noon; instead of as previously advertised.

E. L. WOODIN,
Superintendent.

P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office,
Hongkong, July 1, 1889. 1777

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.

The Co.'s Steamship,
Ulysses,

 Captain **BURNES**, will be despatched as above on **THURSDAY, the 4th Instant.**

Passengers for **EUROPE** are desired to proceed **OVERLAND**, can, on application to the **Undersigned**, have their **Tickets endorsed** for same.

To Let

TO LET.
TO LET.
2ND FLOOR OF HOUSE, No. 64, and
GROUND FLOOR OF HOUSE NO
6, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
Apply to
LAI HING & Co.,
No. 153, Queen's Road Central.
Hongkong, July 1, 1889. 120

TO LET.
(With Immediate Possession.)
NO. 4, QUEEN'S GARDENS. Rent
\$90 and taxes.
Apply to
G. C. ANDERSON,
13, Praya Central.
- Hongkong, May 21, 1889. 14

TO LET.
DOOMS IN "COLLEGE CHAMBERS."

116 No. 9, SHYMOW TERRACE.
No. 4, SHYMOW TERRACE, from 1st JUNE
WESTBOURNE VILLAS, NORTH
Water and Gas laid on, Garden and Tennis
court.
Apply to
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.
Hongkong, June 1, 1889.

For Sale.
TO BE SOLD.
THAT Excellent and Convenient RESI-
DENCE, containing 8 Rooms and
OUTBUILDINGS and known as "SIN E-KEE"
situated at KULANGSOO, AMOY.

For Particulars, apply to
J. F. BROADBENT.
Amoy, 13th June, 1889. 115

Shipping.

Steamers.

FOR SINGAPORE, HAYRE AND
HAMBURG.

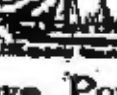
(Taking Cargo at through rates to
ANTWERP, AMSTERDAM, ROTTER-
DAM, LONDON, LIVERPOOL
and BREMEN.)

The Steamship
Polylymnia,
Capt. W. SCHAEFER, w




For Freight or Passage, apply to
SIEMSEN & Co.,
Agents.
 Hongkong, June 26, 1869. 12
NAVIGAZIONE GENERALE
ITALIANA
 (FIORE & RUBATTINO UNITED COMPANIES)
 STEAM FOR
 SINGAPORE, PENANG & BOMBAY
 Having connection with Company's Mail
 Steamers, to ADEN, SUEZ, PORT SAID,
 MESSINA, NAPLES, (LEGNORNI
 and GENOA; all MEDITERRANEAN
 ANATOLIA, LANTARNE and SOUTH AFRICA
 CAN PORTS, to OCEAN, & THING CAR
 at through rates to PERSIAN GULF
 and BAGDAD.
 The Co.'s Steamship
Bornida,
 DE NEGRA, Master, will
 be despatched as above
 on THURSDAY, the 4th July, at Noon.
 At BOMBAY the Steamers are discharged
 in VICTORIA'S DOCK.
 For further particulars regarding Freight
 and Passage, apply to,
 CHARLOTT & Co.

Hongkong, June 26, 1883. 124
COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES
MARITIMES.
PAQUEBOT POSTE FRANCAIS.
FOR SHANGHAI, KOBE AND
YOKOHAMA.

 The Co.'s Steamship
Tangtong,
Commander J. H. B. B. will be despatched for the
above Ports on or about THURSDAY
the 4th July.
G. DE CHAMPEAUX,
Agent.
Hongkong, June 27, 1889. 128

GLEN LINE OF STEAM PACKETS
FOR LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.
The Steamship
Glenfrum,
Capt. NORMAN, will be
despatched at above on
or about the 4th July.
This Steamer has superior Accommodation
for Passengers.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.
Agents.
Hongkong, June 27, 1889. 129

 Captain THOMAS, will be despatched as above on WEDNESDAY, the 10th Inst., at Noon. For further information as to Passage and Freight, apply to
DAVID, SAESON SONS & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, July 1, 1889. 1270

Sailing Vessels.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.
The S/S L.I. American Ship
7/14 tons
C. H. ALLEN, Master, will load
here for the above Port, and
will have quick despatch.
For Freight, apply to
RUSSELL & Co.
Hongkong, May 27, 1889. 1015

FOR NEW YORK.
The S/S L.I. American Ship
7/14 tons
C. H. ALLEN, Master, will load
here for the above Port, and will
have quick despatch.
For Freight, apply to
RUSSELL & Co.
Hongkong, May 15, 1889. 041

LOCAL AND GENERAL

The Garmat woman, however, who arrived yesterday from Hissburg, reporting having experienced a very severe storm while crossing the Bogal Canal. Presumably her rafting was washed away by the tide waves.

Tailor's Shop.—Having spoken the American, which had been moved from Amoy on the 19th June from New York with a cargo of kerosene oil for that port and for Hongkong, after having been about six months out. We believe that in the month of March she went ashore somewhere, and she will probably go into dock after discharging at Hongkong.

Reverend to our remarks.—The Government in acquiescing the Chamber of Commerce of the success of their petition against the privileges of foreign mail steamers the Singapore Free Press says:—We certainly think that Hongkong had a good claim to its early information as anywhere else on the subject of the decision of the Home Government to cause the Paris Postal Convention to determine within a year from date of the notice recently given. The Hongkong position against the Foreign Mail Steamers was the most ably drawn-up document sent in, and the occurrence of the well-known *Calcutta* incident has furnished exactly the sample of evidence that was wanted to point the moral.

The Singapore Free Press says.—The *s.s. Japan* which arrived recently from Calcutta, experienced some of the bad weather which has lately prevailed in the Bay of Bengal. She damaged part of her cargo of opium and landed only 800 sheep out of a total of 1,000. In Calcutta, the remainder being washed overboard.

A COMPTONER.—says the *Straits Independent*, has been come to between the captain of the *Glacis* and the agent of the Dutch steamer *Meden* for towing the latter vessel, which had become disabled on the high seas, into Penang harbour, the price to be paid by the owners of the *Meden* being fixed at £2,500 instead of £4,000, as originally asked by the captain of the *Glacis*.

An interesting case was decided in the Supreme Court, Singapore, on the 18th ult. by Mr Justice Woods, against the Agents of the B.E.N. Company and in favour of Mr Pack Sain, the shipper of two valuable horses from Singapore. It would appear that in letting the horses down from the ship's side one of them slipped through the slings, and falling into the sea below, died almost instantaneously, while the other was put into the boat all right. The Company contended they were not responsible for the horse; no doubt they will appeal.—*Straits Independent*.

A case of sudden death is reported from Surabaya. Mr James Greig, of the firm of Martin Greig & Co. of that place, gave a dinner party on the 14th June. A few hours afterwards he and three of the guests (two ladies and a girl) were taken ill and died within a few hours. A medical examination gave grounds for supposing food poisoning, and some suspicion may be formed of effluvia produced on this Province by Railway communication. It is little more than ten years since the line between Melaka and Kori was opened to traffic; but that the increase in the more remarkable.

ADVANCE INDIA.—According to a contemporary, the opening of the different Railways in the Punjab has, roughly, created an increase of sea-borne trade of from 2,000 per cent in a slack season, compared with the trade of thirty years ago. Add to this the increase of local and inter-provincial traffic, and some conception may be formed of the effluvia produced on this Province by Railway communication. It is little more than ten years since the line between Melaka and Kori was opened to traffic; but that the increase in the more remarkable.

An important addition is about to be made to the Russian merchant navy. A steam navigation company, to be called the North Star, is about to be founded with the co-operation of the Russian Government. It will start with twelve large steamers of from a thousand to twelve hundred tons. They will navigate on the Indo-Chinese as well as certain European lines. The profits of the first seven years are to go to a special reserve fund, which will be devoted to the purchase of new steamers. It is expected that fifty vessels will thus be added to the company's fleet in that period.

THE ENGLISHMAN states that there has just died at Miss Mir an old Malabar woman named Bhucree who is credited with having reached the advanced age of 150 years. She was brought from near Mont gomery a few days ago by road to the house of her grandson at Miss Mir, who is himself an old man of some 60 years, who with married grown-up children and grandchildren. The old lady was perfectly blind, deaf and dumb, and was apparently unconscious of the only signs of life being able to swallow a little arrowroot from time to time. She was buried at Darna, a burial ground near Lahore, by the side of the tomb of her son, a holy man who died some 20 years ago.

A VISIT to the exhibition of Mr Edison's marvellous phonographs in Bond Street shows very clearly that all musical notes can be reproduced by them with sufficient power for a fairly large audience to hear them simultaneously. All inflections of the voice, from the loudest shout to the faintest whisper can also be reproduced, and with the most striking fidelity in pitch, sequence, and time. Any slur of the voice, or any impediment in its utterance, comes back exactly as it was first pronounced. It is very obvious that the exact reproduction of time to time, even of the organs of speech, could be reproduced to a degree, and so far this valuable invention might be utilised in medical teaching, for a faithful reproduction in every way suited to the purpose of instruction. The most successful imitation of the human voice is the human voice in its various shades of emotion.

A PAPER that raises the action of both fire and water has, it is said, recently been invented in Germany by Herr Ludwig. The manufacture is accomplished by mixing 25 to 30 parts of aluminum sulphate, and the mixture is moistened by chloride of zinc and thoroughly washed in water. It is then treated with a solution of 1 part of caustic soda in 10 parts of water, and a solution of pure aluminum sulphate, after which it is manufactured into paper-like ordinary pulp.

A GRAND PROJECT.—A Russian paper states that the Minister of Ways of Communication will shortly examine, in conjunction with the Minister of Domains and of Finance, a project for rendering navigable the principal rivers of Siberia. All the necessary information will be collected and placed before them; and among other documents will be the reports of the Special Commission, constituted by the Minister of Domains in 1878, with the survey of the rivers of Western and Part (Angara) of Eastern Siberia. This Commission will renew its work this summer with regard to the feasibility of connecting the rivers of Siberia by canals with one another, and especially with the Yenisei.

Mr Storey, M. P., has, in one of his letters, just told how, for the second time in thirty years, he visited a race-course. He is in California, and was tempted by the announcement of a race between a young man and a young woman. "I found a considerable crowd, adorned by fewer blackguards than I anticipated. The course was a smooth oval of a mile. Each competitor had four horses ready saddled on it. The man had to mount one of his, ride one round, jump off, ride the second round, and so on, horse by horse and mile by mile, till the full distance of ten miles had been covered. The young woman had to do likewise, save that she was lifted from horse to horse in a man's arms. It was really an exciting business, and no horse was punished. It may interest the ladies to learn that their champion won by a quarter of a mile, doing the 10 miles in 21 minutes 26 seconds."

There seems to be some difficulty felt in the mercantile navy with regard to stern lights. Article 11 lays down that a ship being overtaken shall show from her stern a white light or a flare up, while Article 2 orders that no lights not mentioned in the Rules shall be carried. The questions are raised of the necessity for a fixed stern light; the prevalent and dangerous custom of neglecting to show a stern light at all, and the custom of carrying a fixed stern light. The danger of the fixed light is the difficulty of screwing it so as to light up the space not covered by the side lights and yet not overlap them. As the case at present stands there is no doubt of the illegality of the fixed light and a vessel carrying such a light would be liable under section 17 of the Merchant Shipping Act. Recent decisions have put that beyond question and the custom of putting a fixed light over the funnel makes a ship liable for a trial breach of Article 2. On the other hand the tendency is not to keep a good look out astern and there is often fatal delay in putting the hand light ready.

The firm of Lukwal and Tiele at Amsterdam do not take a rose-coloured view of tobacco enterprise in Deli last year. The quality of that article fell in many cases below the average, not only in the coast districts, but also in the more fertile inland estates. As to the latter, the consequent misgivings as to the future have been removed by better tidings regarding this year's crop. The tobacco from the coast lands proved to be inferior that it got very low prices in the market. Experience shows that this part of the country does not suit that line of cultivation. Any extension of planting enterprise in that section will only result in disappointment and failure. In fact planters would find it an advantage to strike the tents and move to more promising fields elsewhere. This is especially applicable to Siat, where good tobacco grows on land whose productivity soon runs out. Ignorance of this fact has led many persons to embark in tobacco planting with hopes that have never been realised. In Palembang, the estates are yet too recent to admit of crops finding their way to market at present. Deli and Langkat continue to supply the best brands of tobacco, those from Serdang being distinctly inferior.

Reports of breach of promise cases are not seldom fruitful of wholesome warnings; and in nothing, perhaps, more so than in the humiliating accounts that defendants sometimes give of themselves by way of showing that their victims are well out of their bargain. Mr Dobson, veterinary surgeon of Preston, has adopted this line of defence to the action of Miss Anna Lever, of Southampton, tried at the Liverpool Assizes. His counsel, acting presumptuously on instructions, described his client as "a regular sot," and observed that he was at that moment at a certain hotel, "the little place on the bridge," where, if any of the jury should turn in for "an eye-opener," they would no doubt find him rejoicing and condescending with himself on his own misfortune. This being obviously not a practical suggestion, the defendant was subsequently led into court, and accommodated in answer to the question of plaintiff's counsel as to how long it was since he had given away to drink, he promptly replied, "All my life." But insisted the counsel, "It is not so long since you were a respectable veterinary surgeon in Stockport." "I don't know what you mean by respectable," was the mercurial reply. Something was afterwards said about "reputation and doctors," in answer to the query how the witness came to be, as the counsel put it, "the sight you are to-day," but on the whole the jury seem to have accepted Mr Dobson's plea, and the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, the young lady who had married this piece of the matrimonial market was the poorest sum of £50.

One of the roughest passages known in the East is that between Yokohama and Kobe. It is the exception to have a smooth sea, and though the steamer of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha are all that is comfortable and luxurious, yet the traveller generally experiences an unusually disagreeable time in transit between the two ports. Until recently the only alternative was to make the journey by land, but this occupied anything between 6 and 8 days, and few but pleasure seekers could spare the time. Now, however, the railway which has been rapidly pushed forward during the past three years is completed, and one is enabled to start from Yokohama (or Tokio) an hour earlier by first train in the morning, accomplish half the distance by the same evening, resuming the journey early next day, and after crossing Lake Biwa find himself in Kobe by 5 o'clock the same afternoon. The necessity for crossing the Lake will be done away with from the 1st July, when that branch of the line will be opened, so that from that date, one can take breakfast in Yokohama and supper in Kobe, the journey being timed at 19 hours' duration. I believe, thus avoiding the objectionable 30 hours by water, and at the same time having the enjoyment of a rare treat of scenery throughout the whole distance.—*N. O. Daily News*.

THE BENCH AND BAR gives the following as the laws concerning divorce:—*Australians.*—Divorces have never been sanctioned. *Jews.*—In old times the Jews had a discretionary power of divorcing their wives. *Javans.*—If the wife be dissatisfied, she can obtain perfect divorce by paying a specified sum. *Thibetans.*—Divorces are seldom allowed unless with the consent of both parties; re-marriage is forbidden. *Moors.*—If the wife does not become the mother of a boy, she may be divorced with the consent of the tribe, and she can marry again without any further formalities. *Abyssinians.*—No form of marriage is necessary. The connection may be dissolved and renewed as often as the parties think proper. *Siberians.*—If the man be dissatisfied with the best trifling notes of his wife, he tears her cap or veil from her head, and this constitutes a divorce. *Coreans.*—The husband can divorce his wife at pleasure, and leave her the charge of maintaining the children. If she proves unfaithful, he can put her to death. *Siamese.*—The first wife may be divorced, not sold as the others may be. She may claim the first child, and the alternate children are yielded to the husband. *Arctic Region.*—When a man desires a divorce he leaves the house in anger, and does not return for several days. The wife understands the hint and leaves. *Druses and Turkmen.*—Among these people, if a wife asks her husband's permission to go out, and he says, "Go," without adding, "but come back again," she is divorced. Though both parties desire it, they cannot lawfully live together again without being remarried. *Cochin-China.*—If the parties choose to separate they break a pair of chopsticks or a copper coin in the presence of witnesses, by which action the union is dissolved. The husband must restore to the wife the property belonging to her marriage. *American Indians.*—Among some tribes the pieces of sticks given the witnesses of the marriage are broken as a sign of divorce. Usually new connections are formed without the old ones being dissolved. A man never divorces his wife if she has borne him sons.

RELIGION is not a dogma, nor an emotion, but a service.—*Rev. E. D. Hitchcock.*

CHANGE is a word void of sense nothing can exist without a cause.—*Voltaire.*

HE that has never known adversity is but half acquainted with others or with himself.

EQUAL TO THE OCCASION.—Lady Viscountess is a man, dear! Little Alice—No man; but I can show you her new dress.—*Pearl's Siftings.*

REVERENTLY DECLINED.—Miss Gay—I wish I owned a bird! Mr Ling—Let me be your bird. Miss Gay—I don't want a parrot, thank you.—*Speech.*

BLESSINGS OF POVERTY.—Jinks—Do you suppose a man with a family can live on a dollar a day and be a Christian? Blinks—Of course. He can't afford to be anything else.—*N. Y. Weekly.*

WOMAN'S LOVE.—You can always tell just how much a wife loves her husband by watching to see how long she lets him have the opportunity of a spectacular show.—*Sensational Fiction.*

BEHOLD! BOY!—I'm a chip of the old block, ain't I, pa? Fond Father—Yes, my son. B. B.—An' you're the head of the family, ain't you, pa? F. F.—Yes, my son. B. B.—Then you're a blockhead, ain't you, pa?

THEY children at a Sunday school being asked, among other questions, what bearing false witness against one's neighbor meant, a portly little girl replied: "It is when nobody has done nothing and somebody goes and tells."

A CROOK'S bright little boy has a remarkable faculty of "quoting" Scripture. One morning he spilled his cup of milk on the tablecloth, and anticipating reproof, he dropped his head instantly and murmured, "My nut runneth over."

ONE of the famous divorce lawyers of New York, in his advertisements in the city papers, says, "Hymeneal incompatibilities as a specialty delicately adjusted." "Is a specialty to detain the hand after the heart has fled?"

TWO ART COMPANIONS.—"Miss Clara," he murmured fondly, "can you tell me why your eyes are like the stars?" "No. Why are they?" "Because they shine so brightly." "At times," he said, "but you are like the stars, too, Mr. Daily." "Why, may I ask?" "Because you stay until daybreak." And shortly afterwards his footsteps could have been heard as they padded along the broad walk.—*Exchange.*

HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN COMPANY.—An extraordinary meeting of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company was held to-day. Hon. J. J. Kewrick presided, and there were also present:—Messrs F. Dodwell, L. Poseneker, N. A. Siebs, St. O. Michaelson, J. S. Moses, E. A. Solomon, W. H. Forbes, E. L. Woodin, Hon. C. P. Chater and Hon. B. Layton, directors; and Messrs W. G. Brodie, E. B. Jorey, T. I. Rose and E. Osborne (Acting Secretary).

The notice calling the meeting having been read, The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, you have heard the notice calling the meeting. Before submitting the resolutions to you which are referred to therein, perhaps a word or two of explanation might be desirable from me, with reference to the principle on which the Board have decided to carry out the reduction. You will be asked to reduce it on the following principle: by repayment of \$41.17 cents in cash to each shareholder of the company registered at the time of reduction and by issuing to him new scrip for \$50 and fractional certificates for \$8.33, which I may also state, is one hundredth part of a share. This is found to be the most convenient way of carrying out the reduction. I may mention with reference to the fractional certificates that it is hoped by the Board that they will soon accumulate in one or two hands, and be exchanged for scrip, when presented to the office in sums of \$50 each. Your directors have considered it desirable to pay an interim dividend on 30th June before the reduction of capital takes place. Of this and of the closing of the office for transfer books, due notice will be given. Previous to putting the resolution to the meeting, I shall be very pleased to answer any question or to afford any information.

No questions being asked, the Chairman proposed the first resolution, which is:—That Article No. 14 of the present Articles of Association of the Company with its marginal note be expunged, and that, in lieu thereof, the following Article and Marginal Note be inserted, viz:—

The Company shall have power from time to time to subdivide its shares.

Mr Rose seconded and the motion was carried.

The Chairman then proposed the second resolution, which is as follows:—That the Capital be reduced from \$1,700,000, divided into 17,000 shares of \$100 each, to \$1,000,000 divided into 20,000 shares of \$50 each, and that such reduction be effected by returning to the persons who on the 22nd day of July 1889, shall be the holders of the 17,000 shares that have been issued, the sum of \$700,000; part of the paid up Capital, rateably according to the number of shares held by them and in equal proportions.

Mr Jorey seconded and the motion was carried.

THE RECENT FIRE IN QUEEN'S ROAD WEST.—STARTLING EVIDENCE AT THE INQUIRY. Mr Wodehouse held an inquiry at the Magistrate's to-day into the circumstances connected with the fire which broke out in the house No 242 Queen's Road West on the night of the 28th ult. The fire, it will be remembered, destroyed two houses, namely the one in Queen's Road, in which it originated and another in First Street. The fire was believed to have broken out in a hardware dealer's shop in the Queen's Road, and the fact that there did not appear to have been any clock in the place, although the contents were insured for \$3,000, naturally gave rise to a good deal of suspicion. The master of the shop handed over his books to the insurance agent on the afternoon of the 29th, but had disappeared since that time.

The following evidence was taken:—**Mr Tse, hawker,** said—I live at No. 9 Sing King Lane. The front door of my house is opposite the back door of the house in Queen's Road in which the fire occurred on 28th ult. That evening I was lying down outside my door when all of a sudden I saw through the window of the house in Queen's Road that the clock of the shop on the ground floor was on fire. The shop is called the Kwong Shing shop. The floor of the clock was on fire. I and two or three others opened the back door of the shop and went in. I saw kerosene oil on the floor of the clock.

The Magistrate—How could you see there was kerosene? Witness—I saw it running down from the floor of the clock on to the ground floor. There was a good deal of it all along. The kerosene was blazing as it fell down, and was burning on the floor. There was nothing in the shop but one piece of wood. I left the place and returned to my own house to remove my mother. I had been in the Kwong Shing shop before this. I noticed that evening at meal time that there was only one piece of wood in the shop. It was a timber shop. The ground floor had been empty for some months. I had never been up into the clock. The upper floors are dwelling houses. The clock on the ground floor was a kind of sitting room with one bed in it. The shop had been empty for two or three months. Formerly it was well stocked with wood. There was nothing burning on the ground floor when I went in except the kerosene which was dropping down from the clock.

Mr Tse, hawker, said—I live at No. 9 Sing King Lane. The front door of my house is opposite the back door of the house in Queen's Road in which the fire occurred on 28th ult. That evening I was lying down outside my door when all of a sudden I saw through the window of the house in Queen's Road that the clock of the shop on the ground floor was on fire. The shop is called the Kwong Shing shop. The floor of the clock was on fire. I and two or three others opened the back door of the shop and went in. I saw kerosene oil on the floor of the clock.

The Magistrate—How could you see there was kerosene? Witness—I saw it running down from the floor of the clock on to the ground floor. There was a good deal of it all along. The kerosene was blazing as it fell down, and was burning on the floor. There was nothing in the shop but one piece of wood. I left the place and returned to my own house to remove my mother. I had been in the Kwong Shing shop before this. I noticed that evening at meal time that there was only one piece of wood in the shop. It was a timber shop. The ground floor had been empty for some months. I had never been up into the clock. The upper floors are dwelling houses. The clock on the ground floor was a kind of sitting room with one bed in it. The shop had been empty for two or three months. Formerly it was well stocked with wood. There was nothing burning on the ground floor when I went in except the kerosene which was dropping down from the clock.

Mr Tse, hawker, said—I live at No. 9 Sing King Lane. The front door of my house is opposite the back door of the house in Queen's Road in which the fire occurred on 28th ult. That evening I was lying down outside my door when all of a sudden I saw through the window of the house in Queen's Road that the clock of the shop on the ground floor was on fire. The shop is called the Kwong Shing shop. The floor of the clock was on fire. I and two or three others opened the back door of the shop and went in. I saw kerosene oil on the floor of the clock.

The Magistrate—How could you see there was kerosene? Witness—I saw it running down from the floor of the clock on to the ground floor. There was a good deal of it all along. The kerosene was blazing as it fell down, and was burning on the floor. There was nothing in the shop but one piece of wood. I left the place and returned to my own house to remove my mother. I had been in the Kwong Shing shop before this. I noticed that evening at meal time that there was only one piece of wood in the shop. It was a timber shop. The ground floor had been empty for some months. I had never been up into the clock. The upper floors are dwelling houses. The clock on the ground floor was a kind of sitting room with one bed in it. The shop had been empty for two or three months. Formerly it was well stocked with wood. There was nothing burning on the ground floor when I went in except the kerosene which was dropping down from the clock.

Mr Tse, hawker, said—I live at No. 9 Sing King Lane. The front door of my house is opposite the back door of the house in Queen's Road in which the fire occurred on 28th ult. That evening I was lying down outside my door when all of a sudden I saw through the window of the house in Queen's Road that the clock of the shop on the ground floor was on fire. The shop is called the Kwong Shing shop. The floor of the clock was on fire. I and two or three others opened the back door of the shop and went in. I saw kerosene oil on the floor of the clock.

The Magistrate—How could you see there was kerosene? Witness—I saw it running down from the floor of the clock on to the ground floor. There was a good deal of it all along. The kerosene was blazing as it fell down, and was burning on the floor. There was nothing in the shop but one piece of wood. I left the place and returned to my own house to remove my mother. I had been in the Kwong Shing shop before this. I noticed that evening at meal time that there was only one piece of wood in the shop. It was a timber shop. The ground floor had been empty for some months. I had never been up into the clock. The upper floors are dwelling houses. The clock on the ground floor was a kind of sitting room with one bed in it. The shop had been empty for two or three months. Formerly it was well stocked with wood. There was nothing burning on the ground floor when I went in except the kerosene which was dropping down from the clock.

ping down from the clock. The clock was reached by a ladder inside the shop near the kitchen door. While I was looking in through the window I saw several men coming down from the clock and running out by the front door into Queen's Road. I did not go up into the clock, but I stood on the floor of the clock. The floor was wet all over with kerosene. There was nothing else on fire but the oil and the boards. I did not see anything that could have set fire to the oil. I don't know the names of the men who came down from the floor of the clock. There were three or four of them. I would know them if I saw them again.

The Magistrate—Do you know the master of the shop by name or by sight? Witness—No. I don't know if he was one of those who came down from the clock. There was no attempt made to remove property. There was nothing to remove. The only furniture in the place consisted of two chairs and a counter and one table.

The Magistrate—What would that show? Witness—That they had just finished everything and set fire to the shop.

Chen Tse Tuk said—I am a rent collector and reside at 242 Queen's Road West. On the 28th ult. about ten p.m. I heard an alarm of fire and went out. I saw that the clock of No. 242 was on fire. I went to the shop. There was a very strong smell of kerosene oil there. When I first saw it only the clock was on fire. I know the shop. About a month ago the master called me into the shop to look at an insurance policy for the premises. The master's name is Cheung Pin. He wanted me to see if there was any mistake in it. He told me the place was insured for so much and asked me what the dates were. I don't remember what the dates were. There has been hardly anything in the shop since the commencement of the Chinese New Year. Last year there used to be a good deal in it. I saw the master of the shop a few days before the fire. I had no further conversation with him. The shop is one of the places for paper for three months after the 5th. Up to three months ago he used to pay regularly. The premises used to be under another name, but since the commencement of the present year Cheung Pin put an advertisement in the papers under the name of Cheung Pin. Since then I have recognised him as master. I got rent from him for several months, and his excuse for not paying of late has been that he was not receiving money from his customers. I threatened to discontinue him. He said he would pay me in the first floor of 242 Queen's Road West over the Kwong Shing shop. I was at home when the fire occurred on the 28th ult. On hearing the noise in the street I went out on the verandah and saw smoke coming down from underneath. I had no time to see any property. When I got into the street I saw the clock of the Kwong Shing shop on fire. There was nobody in the shop when I got down. There was no stock in the shop.

Robert Lyall said—I am agent for the Queen's Insurance Co. in Hongkong. In April last a man named Cheung Pin came to me asking for a policy of insurance for the contents of his shop, No. 242 Queen's Road West. A policy was given for \$2200 on timber, \$300 on furniture and \$500 on clothing. I reported to Mr Lyall that the shop was worth what Cheung Pin asked. Inspector Mackie, in reply to the Magistrate, said he had not seen the master of the shop since the night of the fire. He had since disappeared.

Mr Lyall, recalled, said—On the afternoon of the day after the fire the master of the Kwong Shing shop came to me, accompanied by a man who interpreted for him, and told me there had been a fire the previous night at his premises. He handed over to me the books produced. I said I would inquire into it and he went away. I have not seen him since.

Mr Lyall, recalled, said—On the afternoon of the day after the fire the master of the Kwong Shing shop came to me, accompanied by a man who interpreted for him, and told me there had been a fire the previous night at his premises. He handed over to me the books produced. I said I would inquire into it and he went away. I have not seen him since.

Mr Lyall, recalled, said—On the afternoon of the day after the fire the master of the Kwong Shing shop came to me, accompanied by a man who interpreted for him, and told me there had been a fire the previous night at his premises. He handed over to me the books produced. I said I would inquire into it and he went away. I have not seen him since.

Mr Lyall, recalled, said—On the afternoon of the day after the fire the master of the Kwong Shing shop came to me, accompanied by a man who interpreted for him, and told me there had been a fire the previous night at his premises. He handed over to me the books produced. I said I would inquire into it and he went away. I have not seen him since.

Mr Lyall, recalled, said—On the afternoon of the day after the fire the master of the Kwong Shing shop came to me, accompanied by a man who interpreted for him, and told me there had been a fire the previous night at his premises. He handed over to me the books produced. I said I would inquire into it and he went away. I have not seen him since.

Mr Lyall, recalled, said—On the afternoon of the day after the fire the master of the Kwong Shing shop came to me, accompanied by a man who interpreted for him, and told me there had been a fire the previous night at his premises. He handed over to me the books produced. I said I would inquire into it and he went away. I have not seen him since.

Mr Lyall, recalled, said—On the afternoon of the day after the fire the master of the Kwong Shing shop came to me, accompanied by a man who interpreted for him, and told me there had been a fire the previous night at his premises. He handed over to me the books produced. I said I would inquire into it and he went away. I have not seen him since.

Mr Lyall, recalled, said—On the afternoon of the day after the fire the master of the Kwong Shing shop came to me, accompanied by a man who interpreted for him, and told me there had been a fire the previous night at his premises. He handed over to me the books produced. I said I would inquire into it and he went away. I have not seen him since.

Mr Lyall, recalled, said—On the afternoon of the day after the fire the master of the Kwong Shing shop came to me, accompanied by a man who interpreted for him, and told me there had been a fire the previous night at his premises. He handed over to me the books produced. I said I would inquire into it and he went away. I have not seen him since.

Mr Lyall, recalled, said—On the afternoon of the day after the fire the master of the Kwong Shing shop came to me, accompanied by a man who interpreted for him, and told me there had been a fire the previous night at his premises. He handed over to me the books produced. I said I would inquire into it and he went away. I have not seen him since.

Mr Lyall, recalled, said—On the afternoon of the day after the fire the master of the Kwong Shing shop came to me, accompanied by a man who interpreted for him, and told me there had been a fire the previous night at his premises. He handed over to me the books produced. I said I would inquire into it and he went away. I have not seen him since.

Mr Lyall, recalled, said—On the afternoon of the day after the fire the master of the Kwong Shing shop came to me, accompanied by a man who interpreted for him, and told me there had been a fire the previous night at his premises. He handed over to me the books produced. I said I would inquire into it and he went away. I have not seen him since.

Mr Lyall, recalled, said—On the afternoon of the day after the fire the master of the Kwong Shing shop came to me, accompanied by a man who interpreted for him, and told me there had been a fire the previous night at his premises. He handed over to me the books produced. I said I would inquire into it and he went away. I have not seen him since.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE IN HONGKONG.—The Singapore Free Press quotes the remarks made on the projects for the extension of the Volunteer movement and comments on them as follows:—

"From the following article in the *China Mail* there is some danger of zeal outrunning discretion as regards the propriety of intentions and efforts of the Hongkong Government to extend the Volunteer Service in that Colony. As long as the principle of compulsory service is not applied it is only a certain fair percentage of the European population of places like Hongkong and Singapore that will undertake the responsible duty of Voluntary Service. From what we read there is a danger of Hongkong trying to do too much and to expend its energies in this respect too diffusely. There is much sense in what appears below, but there is one remark that needs to be made. It is not advisable in our opinion to convert the existing Artillery Corps in Hongkong into a Maxim Gun Corps. So few men are required for a crew for the latter weapon that it will always be possible to find in the ranks of an existing corps far more than sufficient to undertake the working of the Maxim likely to be obtained. In Singapore the S. V. A. are about to acquire four of these guns for each subdivision, and to work these sixteen men or so will be quite enough. It should also be remembered that heavy guns and Maxims will not probably be needed simultaneously; the former will be used against hostile ships at longer ranges, and the latter against an enemy that is effective or has already effected a landing, or against dangerous local disturbances, which has mastered police control. Of Maxim drill there is already nothing to learn. A good rifle shot will handle it with ease the gun acts automatically and the only work lies in preparing and supplying cartridges for loading, and in moving the gun about from place to place as may be required. The use of this weapon is therefore properly a supplement to either infantry or artillery, and not an ordinary type of fighting. Speaking of mounted infantry, we do not agree with our Hongkong contemporary that they would be useless in Hongkong. The volunteer corps there has just been placed under Capt. Collinson commanding the detachment of the 58th. This energetic officer has some previous experience, particularly at the Cape, in mounted infantry work, and no one knows better the capabilities of this comparatively new arm of the service. He has already, we believe, thirty-five or forty volunteer mounted infantry, and the face of any possibility of a hostile landing this little force would undoubtedly prove of service in bringing in intelligence and in engaging the enemy's landing parties until other forces should be able to come up.

Of Captain Collinson's Volunteer mounted infantry, we have heard little, and we suspect that it only exists in embryo. But even if such a corps were formed, and the members could be held together, we doubt very much if it would be of any practical use. As to bringing intelligence, we would back a swift coolie, along most of the roads of the Colony, against any of the mounted heroes. The only road on which they might be employed for scouting purposes would be the Aberdeen road; but if the General decreed a landing on the South side of the island during the night, we imagine that he would take other means of obtaining information than by sending some thirty or forty riders scouring over a road five or six miles long from the half of which the sea would not be visible on a dark night. And if such a landing were made, we fear the Volunteer mounted corps would be of little use in repelling it. There is scarcely an inch of ground in the island, at least on the south side, where such a corps could operate to any advantage. As to the Maxim gun, we know that it does not require much training to handle these guns, and we are sure that the little corps of Artillery Volunteers, were all the members enthusiastic and regular in attendance, could easily add the Maxim gun practice to their present duties. But enthusiasm and regularity are unfortunately far from universal, and the period of practice is so limited, the changes in the corps so numerous, that we think we were far wrong in advising the Government not to attempt too much and to strive rather at the formation of one good Maxim gun corps than at several heterogeneous corps on the solidity of which little reliance could be placed.

THE SINGAPORE VOLUNTEERS.—The Singapore Government, as the following extract from the *Singapore Free Press* shows, are determined to push the volunteer movement in that Colony. Our contemporary says:—

The circular printed below has been issued by the Government of Hongkong, and is headed by the Singapore Government. We are glad to see that the Colonial Government are alive to the responsibility which rests upon them of permanently maintaining a local European reserve force, whose object it is to supplement the regular troops of the Royal Artillery now in garrison in Singapore. The circular is a proof, if proof were needed, that the existence of such a useful body is not to be left in dependence upon the surplus energy or public spirit of any group of men who may happen to form for the moment a portion of the over-zealous European population of Singapore. The present members of the Corps undertake service on the strength of Government guarantees ensuring permanence and effective training. These guarantees are being gradually fulfilled, though a good deal yet remains to be done. The present interruption to the training of the Corps is in no way to be laid at the door of the Government of the Straits Settlements.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, Singapore, 20th June, 1889. Gentlemen, I am desired by the Government to draw your special attention to the formation of the Singapore Volunteer Artillery Corps, which has now been thoroughly established and has received the fullest recognition of Her Majesty's Government as a part of the Auxiliary Forces of Singapore. I am to invite your serious consideration to the great importance of the Corps being continuously supported by the active interest of the senior members of the community, which has been shown by your kind assistance in the past, and by your future assistance in the future members of your Firm to join the Corps, and by assisting arrangements being made after they have joined, so that they may attend the necessary number of drills to enable them to become qualified as efficient members of the Corps.

His Excellency trusts that this further appeal to the public spirit which he knows exists in Singapore will meet with an adequate response, and I am to request you to kindly inform me how many the Government may expect your Firm to maintain on the roll of the Corps, which requires all the direct support that can be given to it by the public.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, Your most obedient servant, W. G. MAST, Captain R.A.

From a pretty woman's album: "A stupid man compliments a woman upon her pretty teeth, but a clever one makes her laugh."

RIVALLED THE GEM IN COLORED.—Rheumatism (rapt

SHIPPING IN CHINA, JAPAN, &